

respective ships. The good old King thus continued.

Unambitious of conquest, pleased with my tranquility, and satisfied with the enjoyment of domestic happiness, have I worn my crown no less than forty years. I know not that I have been guilty of the least injustice. My people seem to have lived in peace and affluence, and my immediate dependents to have been uncommonly happy, and yet, at this awful hour, I am, upon recollection, conscious of having omitted many things, by which I might considerably have augmented the felicity of my subjects; of having neglected many of the duties, which, as the father of my country, I ought to have performed. I now am convinced, that a King ought by no means to consider his own ease and happiness as his principal object, since the well-being of so many thousands depends upon his conduct. And now, my sons, I bid you an eternal farewell; and O! remember me!

The King died, and his two sons embarked for the land of Content. He who sailed in the sloop of Good Fortune, met with many difficulties, narrowly escaped many dangers, and was attacked by an incredible number of pirates: but his propitious stars removed every obstacle, and he arrived safe at the promised land. Emboldened by his success, which he vainly

vainly attributed to his own prowess, he mounted the throne, neglectful of the Princess, by whose means alone it was possible for him to continue in the possession of it. He now considered his new dominions as the fruit of his heroism, and his subjects as the slaves of conquest; till, at length, Justice, enraged at his misbehaviour, and total neglect of her sister, withdrew her support, and down he fell into the sea.

The other young Prince, who embarked aboard the sloop of Ill Fortune, had no sooner put out to sea, than he experienced every disaster that adverse winds and angry waves can bring to pass. The heavens darkened, the tempest arose, his sails were torn, his mast split, till his poor helpless bark was at last dashed to pieces against a rock, and he was left alone upon the naked cliff.

In this situation he prayed to the Almighty, and did not despair of relief. After enduring, for many hours, the extremes of cold and hunger, he was at last taken up by a pirate, and condemned to slavery. But the ship had not sailed many leagues, before she struck upon a sand, and the whole crew perished, except himself, who swam upon a plank towards the shore.

It happened to be the shore of the kingdom of Content. Emaciated with his sufferings, he was too weak to reach the land, but was cast
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